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October 30, 2014

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
Secretary of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington DC

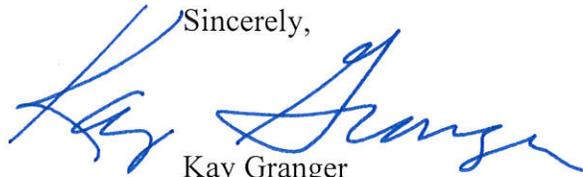
Dear Secretary Kerry:

I was appalled to read the comments a senior Administration official made about Prime Minister Netanyahu. Israel is one of our closest allies and our relationship should be protected and revered, not treated with such disrespect, especially during such tumultuous times in the region. The published comments are reprehensible, disrespectful and only bring more ambiguity to this Administration's commitment to Israel.

Mr. Secretary, you are charged with being the spokesman of U.S. foreign policy and diplomacy. Part of that very serious responsibility includes setting an example for your staff and those who represent your mission within the current Administration. I call on you to take immediate steps to ensure that all State Department staff and Administration officials understand that there are consequences to this type of inexcusable conduct. These published comments are a disservice to those of us in Congress who deeply value the U.S.-Israel relationship, and they must know – in no uncertain terms – that immature, callous and shameful behavior will not be accepted.

If someone on my staff made such an ignorant statement, it would be their last act on my payroll. I expect the Administration to take action by immediately relieving the individual(s) responsible for these comments of their duty. I look forward to hearing from you on how you have dealt with this situation and the steps you have taken to ensure this will never happen again under your watch. There is no room for someone so ignorant and careless in U.S. foreign policy.

Sincerely,



Kay Granger  
Member of Congress